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|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/018,604 | CHRISTENSEN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Tekchand Saidha | 1652 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 25 July 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,8-10,14-18,20,21,37 and 43-50.
3. The drawings filed on 14 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02 May 2005
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Notice of Allowability

1. Applicants' amendment and response filed on July 25, 2005 is acknowledged. Applicants' arguments were found persuasive in view of the claim amendments. All prior pending 112 first & second paragraphs rejections, and objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for improper claim dependence are hereby withdrawn.
2. Claims 1, 8-10, 14-18, 20-21, 37 and 43-50 are pending and under consideration in this application. Process claims 43-50, previously withdrawn, are being rejoined because the withdrawn claims as amended are dependent upon and use the same sequences as the claims being allowed.
3. Claims **1, 8-10, 14-18, 20-21, 37 and 43-50** are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This Application provides unobvious process of modifying pectin by providing a plant host having native pectin methyl esterase (PME) and polygalacturonase (PG) activity & transforming said host by silencing PG activity, wherein the PG activity is silenced by expression of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID Nos. 1 or 3 in an antisense orientation.

No prior art reference or sequence of record, however, taken alone or in combination teach the claimed invention or provide motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the skills available in the area of enzymology or molecular biology, to make the invention obvious.

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5. Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449), filed May 02, 05, citing references from Examiner's Search is acknowledged. An initialed copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tekchand Saidha (Ph.D.) whose telephone number is (571) 272-0940. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:15 am to 4:45 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy, can be reached at (571) 272-0928. The fax phone number for this Group in the Technology Center is 703 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272-1600.



Tekchand Saidha

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August 10, 2005